

## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **FOUR ELECTED TO THE MINNESOTA QUALITY AWARD PANEL OF JUDGES**

The Minnesota Council for Quality, Minneapolis, is pleased to announce the recent election of four new judges to the 2006 Minnesota Quality Award Panel of Judges:

- Ann Burns, Continuous Improvement Facilitator, Sunny Fresh Foods (Cargill, Inc.)
- Dr. Steve Hagedorn, Assistant Professor of Family Medicine, Mayo Clinic Rochester
- Jim Hill, Senior Project Manager, Nuclear Management Company
- Sylvia Rolfs, CEO, Rolfs & Associates.

The four newly elected judges have over 25 years of experience with the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award and the Minnesota Quality Award. They replace Gary Floss, director of Quality at Marvin Windows and Doors; Paul Grizzell, consultant at Studer Group; Lois Mackin, independent consultant; and Ken Rich, retired. All four had served the maximum term of six years as judges.

In addition to the four new Judges, the Council also elected Jean Bronk, quality director at Mortenson Construction, as Chief Judge for the 2006 cycle. She replaces Gary Floss.

“With the election of the four new Judges, the 15-member Panel of Judges continues to represent the diversity of our economy,” says Brian Lassiter, president of the Council. “The Panel includes representatives from the manufacturing, service, health care, and education sectors. They represent leaders in their fields, and have a tremendous depth of knowledge and management experience upon which to judge the maturity and levels of performance excellence of Minnesota organizations.”

The primary role of the Panel of Judges is to determine levels of recognition for organizations participating in the Minnesota Quality Award. Judges also provide coaching and feedback to evaluation teams as they conduct organizational assessments for the Award.

Founded in 1991, the primary objective of the Minnesota Quality Award is to help organizations improve their performance results. The Award also serves to recognize performance excellence throughout the state. The Minnesota Quality Award is given at four levels – Excellence (the top Award), Achievement, Advancement, and Commitment – and is the culmination of a rigorous assessment process that uses the Criteria for Performance Excellence of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. Since 1991, 80 organizations have received recognition at various levels; a full list can be found at [http://www.councilforquality.org/assess\\_org\\_award.cfm](http://www.councilforquality.org/assess_org_award.cfm).

Organizations that participate in the process receive comprehensive feedback that outlines their strengths and improvement opportunities along several dimensions: leadership; strategic planning; customer and market focus; measurement, information, and knowledge management;

human resource focus; process management; and results. This feedback is used for organizational learning, planning, and improvement.

The current Panel of Judges include the following members: Dr. Debra Bowers, St. Louis Park Schools; Jean Bronk (Chief Judge), Mortenson Construction; Ann Burns, Sunny Fresh Foods (Cargill); Rick Carlson, Medica; Dr. Julie Furst-Bowe, University of Wisconsin-Stout; Dr. Steve Hagedorn, Mayo Clinic Rochester; Jim Hill, Nuclear Management Company; Dr. Robert B. Jones, Department of Human Services; Linda Mazzuco; Dr. Mary Ann Nelson, Minnesota Department of Education; Pat O'Boyle, Unisys Corporation; Mike Reagan (Chief Judge), Brainerd Regional Human Services, retired; Sylvia Rolfs, Rolfs & Associates; Rachelle Schultz, Winona Health; and Michael Wirth-Davis, Goodwill/Easter Seals of Minnesota.

**About the Minnesota Council for Quality**

Founded in 1987, the Minnesota Council for Quality is a non-profit corporation that advances improvement and performance excellence within organizations, individuals, and communities. The Council helps leaders identify strengths and improvement opportunities, and we build networks that bring information, resources, knowledge, and best practices to organizations desiring to improve. We do this by offering services such as our Baldrige-based organizational assessments (and Minnesota Quality Award), the Performance Improvement Network, the Consultant Referral Network, and the improvement Clearinghouse, and by collaborating with other non-profits that focus on improvement. For more information, please visit [www.councilforquality.org](http://www.councilforquality.org).

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